



SHARPE JAMES
MAYOR
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
07102

December 30, 1998

The Honorable Mario Drozdz, Councilman
Belleville Municipal Council
152 Washington Avenue
Belleville, New Jersey 07109

Re: Newark Stadium

Dear Councilman Drozdz:

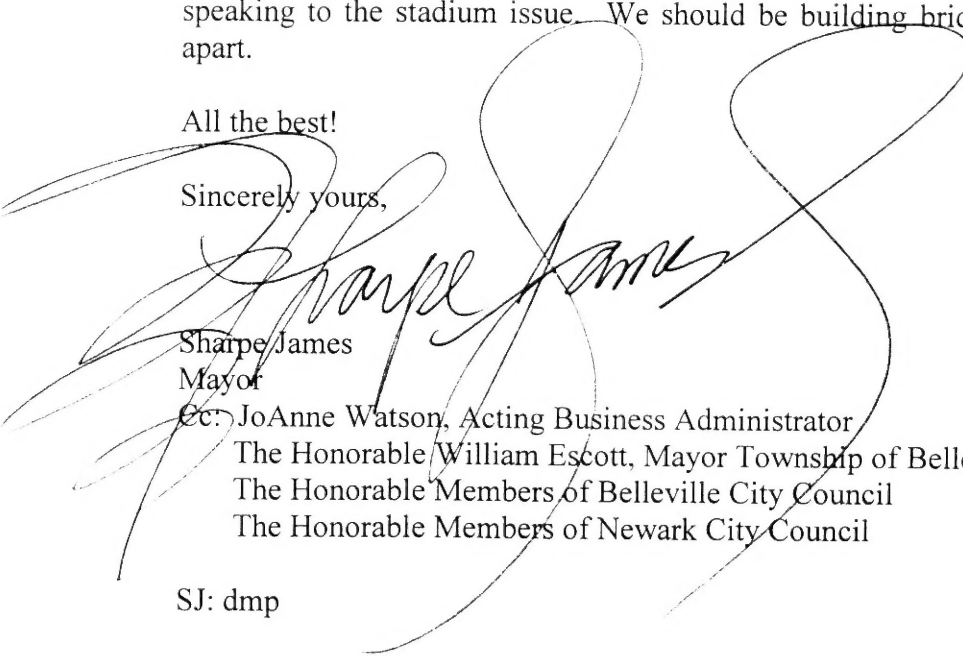
I was quite surprised to read your statement, as quoted in today's Star-Ledger, "I don't see any return on our tax dollars for this project (county and city funding of baseball stadium)...But what will Belleville get?" I would like to ask you if Newark International Airport, Newark Pennsylvania Station, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (county contributed \$10 million) or Branchbrook Park's cherry blossoms serve only Newark residents? Also, does Essex County College only serve residents of Newark? If you are not of that opinion, then you should not be of the opinion that a ballpark will only benefit Newark residents, as opposed to serving all the residents of Essex County. We in Newark visit the Essex County ice skating rink in West Orange, as well as Turtleback Zoo.

The facts speak for themselves. That all residents of Essex County benefit from any state-of-the-arts facilities built in our county.

In the future, I would hope that you would take the above factors into consideration when speaking to the stadium issue. We should be building bridges not tearing one another apart.

All the best!

Sincerely yours,



Sharpe James
Mayor

Cc: JoAnne Watson, Acting Business Administrator
The Honorable William Escott, Mayor Township of Belleville
The Honorable Members of Belleville City Council
The Honorable Members of Newark City Council

SJ: dmp